

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Texas • Natural • Resource • Conservation • Commission

FY 97 Waste Treatment Fees

What Is This Fee?

The Waste Treatment Fee, assessed September 1 of each year in accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 305, Subchapter M, is imposed on each permittee holding a permit under the Texas Water Code, Chapter 26. The collected fees are deposited in a fund for the purpose of supplementing other funds appropriated by the legislature to pay the expenses of the Commission to administer water quality programs, consistent with the provisions of the Texas Water Code, Chapter 26, the rules and orders of the Commission, and the provisions of Commission permits that govern waste discharges and waste treatment facilities.

How Is This Fee Assessed?

All fee assessments are based on the permitted parameters (interim or final) specified in the permit, without regard to the actual quality or quantity of effluent that the facility is discharging. Fees are assessed on the permitted parameters in effect on September 1. Any change(s) of the permitted parameters resulting in a revision to the waste treatment fee will be assessed at the next regular payment date following the change in authorized limits. Each permit for which discharge parameters have been established is assigned a variable number of points based on the values of the specific permit parameters. The fee is determined by multiplying the total number of points assigned a permit by \$75, up to a maximum of \$11,000.

What Does "FY" Mean?

"FY" represents the TNRCC fiscal year; fiscal 1997 is September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997. This fee assessment and payment also correspond to that time period.

What Are the Permitted Parameters?

The variables that define a set of physical properties whose values determine the parameters to be considered under the waste treatment fee are:

- (a) pollutant potential;
- (b) flow volume;

- (c) biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)
/chemical oxygen demand (COD)
/total organic carbon value;
- (d) total suspended solids (TSS) value;
- (e) ammonia value;
- (f) heat load;
- (g) major/minor designation; and
- (h) type of wastewater.

What Is the Points Statement?

Enclosed with your invoice is a breakdown of the points assigned the permitted parameters of your wastewater permit. A separate point statement is enclosed for each permit listed on the invoice.

How Much Time Do I Have to Pay the Fee?

This fee is due 30 days after the invoice date shown on your statement.

Are There Any Late Charges or Penalties for Nonpayment of This Fee?

Yes. There are interest and penalties for nonpayment of this fee. See the back of the invoice for details.

What if My Fee Is Incorrect?

All fee disputes must be submitted in writing to:

Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
Watershed Management Division, MC-176
PO Box 13087
Austin TX 78711-3087

You must pay by the due date the portion of the fee that is not in dispute. Include the account number and the permit number in your correspondence regarding the fee dispute.

Will These Fees Be Increasing Soon?

In 1995, the Texas Legislature passed HB 2015 to address changes needed to allow the TNRCC to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System delegation. The bill requires changes to the fee rules to fund implementation of the program. In addition to an increase of the cap (currently \$11,000), industrial permittees should anticipate higher fees with delegation.

If My Permit Has Expired, Do I Still Owe the Fee?

If your permit expired before September 1, 1996, you do not owe the fee. Return your bill with a letter stating the expiration date of your permit.

Why Must I Return the Coupon with My Payment?

The payment coupon (the top portion of your bill) contains an optical character reader (OCR) line. When we receive your payment, a computer reads your account number from that OCR line. Without the original coupon, we must send your payment to another location for manual processing. That slows our processing of your payment and raises the possibility that your payment may not be credited to the correct account. The delay could cause you to incur late charges.

I Have More than One Account; May I Send One Check for the Total Amount?

You may send all your payments in one envelope, but please enclose a separate check for each coupon. If the number of checks does not equal the number of coupons, we will have to process your payment manually, and your accounts may not be credited correctly or in time to avoid late charges.

Where Do I Send My Payment?

You should send your payment and the payment coupon to the mailing address shown on the back of the coupon. Use the envelope provided for your convenience.

Where Is the Wastewater Treatment Facility Located?

The location of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is described on the front page of your permit. The permitted parameters are included in the body of the permit; they usually begin on the second page.

How May I Obtain a Copy of My Permit?

The permit is provided to permittees upon issuance and/or transfer. Additional copies of your wastewater permit may be purchased from the TNRCC's Records Services Section, (512) 239-2920. There is a small fee for copying.

How May I Obtain A Copy of the Waste Treatment Fee Rules?

The rules contain detailed information regarding the calculation of the waste treatment fee. Copies of 30 TAC, Chapter 305, Subchapter M (Waste Treatment Fee Program) may be obtained by contacting the Publication Section at (512) 239-0028.

For technical information regarding the TNRCC's regulatory program, contact:

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Watershed Management Division, MC-146
PO Box 13087
Austin TX 78711-3087
(512) 239-4553

For **account balance information**, call the Financial Administration Division at the following telephone numbers:

For owner names: A-K: (512) 239-0356
L-Z: (512) 239-0354

If you have a personal computer and modem, you can dial (512) 239-0700 to reach the TNRCC Online Bulletin Board System (BBS). It contains information about the TNRCC, its rules, and the environmental services the agency provides. The BBS supports up to 14,400-baud modems and follows most common communication settings: NO parity, 8 databits, 1 stopbit, Full duplex (N,8,1,F). If you have problems accessing the BBS, call the Technical Support Help Desk at (512) 239-0911.



TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Financial Administration Division, MC-214

PO Box 13087

Austin TX 78711-3087